

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are currently pending in the application; which claims 1, 9, 13, 16, and 23 being independent. Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, 13, 16, and 23 to better define the claimed invention. Applicants have added new claims 28-34 to define additional aspects of the invention. Applicant respectfully requests entry of this amendment in light of the remarks and amendments presented herein, and earnestly solicits timely allowance of the pending claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-27 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,629,499 to (“Flickinger” et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,477,012 to (“Sekendur”). Applicants disagree and respectfully traverse this rejection.

Flickinger discusses an electronic apparatus and describes storing and transferring written information (Abstract). The apparatus includes a board 102 and a stylus such as a pen 104. The board 102 is activated when the tip of the pen 104 is in close proximity to the board. The board 102 includes a digitizing tablet 138 with a sensing mechanism 101 constantly generating an electromagnetic field. Once the tip of the pen 104 is in close proximity to the board 102, the electromagnetic field causes sensing of the tip, and the board is activated. The location of the tip of the pen is registered by the sensing mechanism 102, and stored in a memory device in the board. (See col. 2, lines 45-65.) To record information with the device, the user may pick up the board 102 and a piece of paper such as a form, as shown in Fig. 5. Then the user performs certain operations that may directly or indirectly create an indication that the form has been

positioned on the board 102 (col. 3, lines 17-21.) One indication method is that form 200 has an identifier which designates a specific type of form. These identifiers may be pre-stored in memory 106 for identifying different types of forms. (See col. 3, lines 43-59.)

However, Flickinger fails to teach or suggest, at least, “a position coding pattern located on the surface and detectable by an optical sensor, wherein each position is encoded by directions of displacements between a plurality of marks and grid points,” as recited in claim 1; and “printing on a surface a position-coding pattern detectable by an optical sensor, wherein the position coding pattern utilizes directions of displacements between a plurality of marks and grid points,” as recited in claim 9; and “on a surface having a position-coding pattern detectable by an optical sensor, wherein the position coding pattern utilizes directions of displacements between a plurality of marks and grid points...” as recited in claim 13; and “a position-coding pattern detectable by the optical sensor, wherein the position coding pattern utilizes directions of displacements between a plurality of marks and grid points,” as recited in claim 16; and “wherein the preprinted coding information utilizes the directions of displacements between a plurality of marks and grid points to code different symbol values,” as recited in claim 23.

Sekendur fails to cure the deficiencies of Flickinger in this respect. Sekendur discloses a surface systematically coded with a plurality of dots designating coordinates. Each dot, shown in Figure 1, is divided into three concentric circles partitioned into quadrants. The center circle forms a small dot, while the other circles form inner and outer concentric rings. Each quadrant of each ring represents a digit of a 4-digit number and is further divided into four equal slices, the upper right quadrant of the first digit moving clockwise. The outer ring represents the

X-coordinate and the inner ring represents the Y-coordinate. A combination of dark and light slices in the rings of each dot indicates an X-Y coordinate. (See col. 4, lines 28-41.) Additionally, Sekendur discloses alternative embodiments including a barcode system and a system of checkerboard-like cubes. (See col. 4, lines 46-48; Figs. 4 and 5, respectively.) Note that in Fig. 5a, one portion of the checkerboard is delineated to the X coordinate while the other portion of the checkerboard is delineated to the Y coordinate. From Fig. 5a, it can be seen that the encoding is performed by the presence or absence of a sub-square within the checkerboard; whereby different values are determined based upon the location of the sub-square within the square array shown in 5A. A plurality of square arrays comprises the checkerboard as shown in Fig. 5. Applicant submits that Sekendur is distinguished from the features recited in the claims above, at least in that how the coding is performed on the encoded surface.

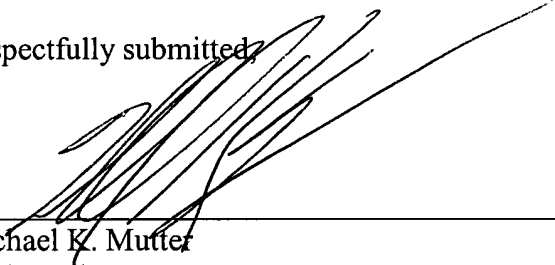
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections to independent claims 1, 9, 13, 16, and 23. Claims 2-8 depending on claim 1 and are at least allowable by virtue of their dependency from allowable claim 1. Claims 10-12 depend from claim 9 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from allowable claim 9. Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13 and are at least allowable by virtue of their dependency from allowable claim 13. Claims 17-22 depend from claim 16 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from allowable claim 16. Claims 24-27 depend from claim 23 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from allowable claim 23.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,


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